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University of Northern Iowa Graduate Council Minutes, December 8, 2016

Graduate Council, University of Northern Iowa.

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UNI Graduate Council Minutes #1060

UNI Graduate Council Meeting

December 8, 2016

Present: Al-Mabuk, Berendzen, Brown, Calderon, Cutter, Dhanwada, Edmister, Igou, Isakson, Ostapyuk, Pohl, Ross.

Absent: Beall, Fontana, Juby, Schwieger & Teske.

Chair Pohl called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

There was a motion to approve the minutes of the Oct 27 meeting. The motion passed.

Graduate College Reports:

Associate Dean Cutter announced that the UNI Distinguished Scholar Award committee is looking for two new members to participate in the applicant review process. The selection procedure requires that the committee has two members from the Graduate Council on it. Cutter asked for volunteers. **Al-Mabuk & Berendzen** agreed to be on the selection committee. The committee will meet in Feb., 2017. Specific date to be given later.

Dean Dhanwada talked about the overall process that was followed in the selection of the new President for UNI. Even though the timeframe was rather short, she felt the process was a thorough one and the search committee put in a lot of time and effort to gather and evaluate all of the information and feedback gathered from the UNI community after candidate interactions and the open forums. Much work was done and she thanked all those who participated in the process of selecting the president. The new president, **Dr. Mark Nook** will begin at UNI on February 1, 2017. **Dhanwada** encouraged all members of the Graduate Council to continue working on the Strategic Plan for graduate education and be ready to present a draft of the work to the entire graduate community in upcoming months.

On behalf of **Schwieger**, **Dhanwada** reported that the 10th Annual Graduate Symposium is on Tuesday, April 4, 2017. The program will run from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. **Dhanwada** asked Council members to encourage fellow faculty and their graduate students to experience the symposium. This year, the event will begin in the morning with a presentation and will have sessions during the day including poster, oral presentations as well as creative performances. She wanted to let everyone know that students didn't have to come for the entire event, but they should be allowed to participate and take part in this professional development activity.

Pohl mentioned that Wednesday's Brown Bag seminar was well attended. The speaker, John DeGroote discussed how the GeoTree program can help many on campus in their academic mission. She once again encouraged all to come to Brown Bag seminars to get exposed to the fine work done by the invited speakers. The next Brown Bag seminar is on January 30, 2017. **Pohl** also mentioned that on March 21,

2017 she is planning on having an interactive session where all members of the graduate faculty will be asked to come together and talk about the goals for the Strategic Plan for the Graduate College. She believes it is very important for the Graduate College to be in communication with the entire UNI community and showcase the College's commitment to the graduate mission.

New Business:

Discussion occurred on the Graduate College Mission Statement along with the values and goals of the College currently in progress. Graduate Council members were invited to provide feedback and suggestions via Google Docs document. **Pohl** asked if further discussions were needed for the current Mission Statement. All members expressed that they found the latest version (previously distributed) of the Mission Statement as acceptable to present to fellow graduate faculty for feedback.

Discussion occurred on the Values for the Graduate College. It was agreed that each value statement must elaborate on the core values of the Graduate College. After a considerable discussion, the following was agreed upon until further review.

Values of Graduate Education

Academic Freedom

Ensure academic freedom by giving voice to differing opinions. **Academic Integrity**
Ensure academic integrity in scholarship, creative activity and teaching by offering rigorous, intellectual research and instruction.

Access

Offer program access to students through on-campus and distance education programs.

Diversity

Affirm diversity and graduate student excellence.

Interdisciplinarity

Advance interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary activities and programs.

Opportunity

Offer opportunities for professional growth for graduate students and faculty that supports and values research, creative activity and teaching.

Brief discussion occurred on Vision Statement. Everyone was encouraged to go to the Google document and further work on this document and suggest revisions to the five associated goals for future discussions.

Meeting adjourned. The next meeting will be on Jan 12, at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rubina Chowdhury
Secretary